

of such attempts. The fact is, but few of these can be reached by gas, let the bellows blow ever so hard; nor can many be killed by poison, even if the most deadly be placed within their doorways, for as soon as they discover harm, they form a new entrance. The only effectual method of destroying them is to dig, and kill the females and young, when the neuters will perish. This is so expensive that it will only be resorted to near a garden or dwelling; and as the Cutting Ants are scattered through western and central Texas, they probably never will be exterminated by man.—From the *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sciences of Philadelphia*, 1860, page 233.

*Note on Fredericella Sultana being found in the Winter.*

By The Rev. W. HOUGHTON, M.A., F.L.S.

*To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—Professor Allman, in his valuable Monograph of the Freshwater Polyzoa (Ray Society, 1856), draws attention to the following fact in the economy of *Fredericella Sultana*:—“The statoblasts are small and seem to be but sparingly produced,—a circumstance in which this animal differs strikingly from several species of *Alcyonella* and *Plumatella*, in which the tubes at the proper season are constantly found loaded with statoblasts in the greatest profusion.” In confirmation of the truth of the above remark, and as an interesting fact explanatory of the comparative scarcity of the statoblasts in the tubes of *Fredericella Sultana*, I have to observe that I have met with this species in the months of December and January, as well as in the spring, summer, and autumn seasons. This species, therefore, it would appear, is perennial,—a point in which it differs from perhaps all the other members of the Freshwater Polyzoa. Now this seems to me to be a very satisfactory explanation of the fact alluded to by Dr. Allman, inasmuch as this species, since it lasts through the year, requires not a profusion of statoblasts. I know not whether any other species of freshwater Polyzoa are, like the *Fredericella*, perennial, but I am inclined to believe that the above-named species is an exception to the rule, and that all the members of the other genera which occur in this country do not last through the year; hence in these cases the necessity of a profusion of statoblasts (for but a very few, comparatively speaking, ever germinate) as a provision for fresh colonies in the spring of every succeeding year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Truly yours,

W. HOUGHTON.

Solihull, Oct. 18, 1860.

*Note on Mr. Blyth's Paper on the Animals known as Wild Asses.*

By Major R. STRACHEY, F.R.S., F.L.S.

In Mr. Blyth's recent paper on the Animals known as wild Asses, he states that “the late Professor H. Walker referred the Tibetan Kyang to *Equus hemionus* of Pallas, and the Ghor-khur of this country is even more satisfactorily referable to *E. onager* of Pallas,

figured by Gmelin ; but Prof. Walker committed the extraordinary mistake of figuring and describing an Indian Ghor-khur for a Kyang, so that the alleged distinctions which he has pointed out are valueless. However this mistake originated, there is no doubt whatever of the fact\*.”

Now I am in a position to say *quite positively* that Dr. Walker was right, and that Mr. Blyth is wrong, in the *matter of fact*. The animal in question was bought in my presence for the late Mr. Thomason for Rs. 100, at the fair at Bagesar in Kumaon, from a Tuhári Bhotiya by whom it had been obtained in Tibet. The story of its attachment to the pony, to which Mr. Blyth also alludes, is odd ; and I will state it in full, with the hope that I may satisfy everybody that I really do know something of the personal history of Dr. Walker's Kyang.

Mr. Thomason paid a visit to Almora (the capital of Kumaon) at the end of 1847. I was there at the time ; and so was my brother, Mr. John Strachey. We heard of the Kyang ; and Mr. Thomason having been informed of its existence, asked my brother to buy it for him, and to send it down to Calcutta, to be forwarded thence to England for the Zoological Society. The animal was bought, as I before said. But on attempting to remove it from the place where it was tied up, it most flatly refused to stir ; neither coaxing nor force was of any use. We were rather puzzled what to do, when, on inquiry of its old Bhotiya owner, we learned that it had always been in company with a white pony for which it had a strong affection. It then occurred to us that if we got the pony too, the Kyang might be induced to follow where the pony led ; and so it turned out. One or two attempts were made subsequently to surprise the Kyang into a more independent sort of existence, but it was of no use, and so the pony and he went off to Calcutta together.

The end of the pair was tragical. In a gale of wind off the Cape, the Kyang died ; and the captain somewhat savagely threw the pony overboard alive, as his existence seemed no longer necessary after the Kyang's death.

Thus much as to the Kyang's identity. I must add, however, that although I am thus forced to point out Mr. Blyth's mistake in this matter of fact, I in reality corroborate the force of his arguments as to the probable specific identity of the two Asses—the Kyang and the Ghor-khur. It is obvious that Dr. Walker's description of a true Kyang answers perfectly for a true Ghor-khur ; and, as Mr. Blyth observes (though in a somewhat different sense), the alleged distinctions pointed out by Dr. Walker are probably valueless enough.

I have no pretensions to such a knowledge of zoology or anatomy as would make my opinion of any weight on the question of specific identity ; but I may add a few words as to some of the more prominent features of the Kyang, having seen many of these animals dead and alive.

In the first place, my impression as to the voice of the Kyang is that it is a shrieking bray—not like that of the common Ass, but

\* Annals for October, p. 234.

still a real bray, and not a neigh. The differences of opinion on this point are easily reconcilable, I think, considering the inarticulate nature of the sounds.

As to the colour of the animal, it varies very greatly, and I think no dependence, as regards specific character, can be placed on mere depth of tint or brilliancy of hue. So also as to the dorsal and humeral stripes. The dorsal stripe is always plain. The humeral cross varies much, but is often as strongly marked as in the Ass bred in Kumaon, in which, however, it is not commonly very well defined.

I see nothing in the habits of the Kyang to make it improbable that it is, in fact, the same species as the Ghor-khur. The Kyang must be a very hardy animal to be able to live on the desert plateaus of Tibet; and though in winter the climate in which he exists is different enough from that of the plains of Sindh, yet, in the summer, the arid surface and scorching heat of the mid-day sun place the Kyang much more on a par with the Ghor-khur than might be supposed.

The Kyang, so far as external aspect is concerned, is obviously an Ass, and not a Horse.—From the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, vol. xxix. p. 136.


#### *On a supposed New Fish.*

By the PRINCE OF SALM-HORSTMAR.

The Prince of Salm-Horstmar has written to the editor of the 'Archiv für Naturgeschichte,' stating that some years ago he found a small fish lying dead upon the sand of a brook called the Hühner-Bach, near Coesfeld. The fish resembled a Stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) in size and general appearance, but differed from a Stickleback in the following characters:—

1. Its lower jaw, or its apex, stands far back in proportion to the apex of the upper jaw; and the lower jaw is quite different.

2. At the apex of the lower jaw there is a remarkable chisel-shaped tooth, the edge of which appears under the lens to be finely notched.

The profile of the tooth is .

The author did not preserve the fish, which he took for a Stickleback; but on afterwards examining true Sticklebacks, he found that they possessed neither the chisel-shaped tooth nor the peculiar proportion of the jaws.—*Wiegmann's Archiv*, 1860, p. 119.

#### *Notes on the Habits of the Brown Coati (Nasua fusca, Desm.).*

By GEORGE BENNETT, M.D., F.Z.S., ETC.

A full-grown living specimen of this interesting Plantigrade animal, a native of Tropical South America, was presented to me in Sydney, N. S. Wales, by the commander of a ship, who had procured it from the coast of South America, and had had it in captivity for eleven months. It was of the size of a very large cat, with hair of a greyish-brown colour over the back and sides, the tail long, bushy, and of a dark brown colour, and the ears round. The colour seems to vary accord-